

DROMORE REVIEW,

SEPTEMBER 19, 1792.

A number of Volunteer Companies, residing in the town and vicinity of Dromore, in the course of last summer, who were not prepared to attend the Belfast Review, determined that a Review should be held in the neighbourhood of Dromore, to promote the ends of their institution, unanimity and discipline. A meeting of Delegates was accordingly held at Agnew's on Monday the 20th August, at which Colonel Sharman was unanimously chosen Reviewing General, and Captain George Douglas Exercising Officer. It was then determined, that the Corps there represented, and such others as chose to attend, should be reviewed on the 19th of September.—On the 18th, the Artillery Division of the Belfast Volunteer Company (blue) the Lisburn Union and Killeny Volunteers, marched into town, and were accommodated with billets. The Donaghmore Company were quartered in the country. On the morning of the 19th, the neighbouring companies marched into town, and were drawn up in the market square. At twelve o'clock the whole marched to the review ground, the bleach-field of Mr. William Black. The General was escorted to the ground by the Waringsford Light Troop. The Belfast Artillery announced his approach. The field not admitting of all the Corps being reviewed in one line, they were divided into two brigades in the following order:

FIRST BRIGADE.

*Belfast Artillery, Capt. Brown, blue, 34

RIGHT WING.

*Banbridge Company, Law, red, 34
Colonel } *Dromore Volunteers, M'Combe, red, 38
Vaughan } *Donaghlong do. Hamilton, red, 22
†Dromore Intrepids, Scott, red, 38
†Dromore Independents, Black, green, 34

LEFT WING.

†Lisburn Union, Crawford, green, 38
*Donaghmore, Carlwell, blue, 48
*Villa Independents, Hamilton, blue, 36
†Loughaghery, A. Cowan, blue, 61
†Dromore Union, Heyland, blue, 24

SECOND BRIGADE.

RIGHT WING.

Union } *Ballynahinch 1st Div. Armstrong, blue, 54
Regt. } *Ballynahinch 2d Div. Armstrong, blue, 54
Colonel } *Moira and Aghalee, Bateman, red, 88
Sharman } *Killeny, Shaw, blue, 40

LEFT WING.

Capt. G. } †Knocknagern, M'Minn, blue, 44
Douglas } †Waringsford, 1st Div. J. Cowan, blue, 50
†Waringsford 2d Div. Brush, blue, 50
†Anaghlonge, Paxton, blue, 46

Total 853

exclusive of the Waringsford Light Horse and the Drumknockin Volunteers. The latter attended, tho' not in uniform. There were in all not less than 900.—The Companies marked thus * are old Corps—Those marked thus † are new ones.

Notwithstanding the incessant rain, the troops acquitted themselves with a steadiness which gave high satisfaction to every friend of the Volunteer Institution present. The young corps passed the General and performed the different manœuvres in a style that would have done honor to Volunteers of much longer standing, and evinced what rapid proficiency may be made by men in the knowledge of arms, in a country where almost every neighbour they meet is capable of affording instruction.

The appearance of the Dromore Union, which is entirely composed of Free-Masons, had a pleasing effect, as some of the most striking emblems of that ancient and honourable order were displayed on their Colours and Uniform. What an accession of strength would be made to the cause of liberty, if their example should be followed, and the character of Mason and Volunteer be universally blended.—Artillery is not only useful to the correct arrangement of a review, but makes an essential part of the pageant expected by the public on such occasions—and it is much to the honour of Captain Brown and the spirited Gentlemen who composed his corps that they attended the review, thereby evincing their zeal for that cause which they have so uniformly supported, and their respectful attention to their brother Volunteers, who were reviewed on this occasion. After the review the corps returned to town and fired a feu-de-joy in the market square.

The General and Exercising Officer were entertained at dinner by the Officers of the different corps, and after dinner a number of loyal and patriotic toasts were drank. Good humour and festivity prevailed in a high degree; the meeting was prolonged to a late hour; and the company departed highly pleased with the business of the day and with each other.

It may with truth be said, that from the commencement of the Volunteer Institution to the present time, more genuine unaffected hospitality, or more affectionate attachment to the cause, was never displayed by any people in Ireland, than by the worthy inhabitants of Dromore.

At a meeting of Delegates from Eighteen Volunteer Corps, reviewed at Dromore on Wednesday 19th Sept. 1792,

CAPT. GEORGE DOUGLAS

IN THE CHAIR.

The following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to:

Resolved, That in associating together as Volunteers, we do solemnly declare that we are actuated by no hostile intention against our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects; but on the contrary, that it is our earnest desire to live with them on terms of perfect friendship and good neighbourhood; and that we are determined to support the civil Magistrate in preserving the peace, and in punishing offenders against the laws of our country, without regard to party or religious distinction.

Resolved, That though the immediate object of our association be the preservation of the peace and regular execution of the laws; yet we wish never to lose sight of that grand object of political pursuit, such a reform in the Commons house, as shall restore to the people their due weight and consequence in the Constitution; and that in the attainment of this most desirable and necessary object we will not fail to make use of every lawful and constitutional means.

Resolved, That the annexed address be presented to our Reviewing General, Colonel Sharman.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Meeting be returned to Mr. William Black for his generosity in accommodating the troops with his bleach-field, though at a very considerable inconvenience to himself.

Resolved, That these our Resolutions and Address to Colonel Sharman, with his Answer, be published in both the Belfast News-papers.

GEORGE DOUGLASS.

Captain Douglas having left the chair and Colonel Vaughan being requested to take it—

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be returned to Captain Douglas for the judgment and ability which he displayed as Exercising Officer, and for the marked propriety and correctness of his conduct in the Chair.

GEORGE VAUGHAN.

ADDRESS

OF THE DELEGATES FROM THE VOLUNTEER CORPS REVIEWED AT DROMORE ON THE 19TH INSTANT,

TO COLONEL SHARMAN.

SIR,

The Delegates of the Volunteer Body, assembled here this day, unanimously requested you to review them, from the knowledge they had of those consistent principles of patriotism that have so uniformly actuated your conduct, and which united to the regular exercise of private virtue, have exalted you to that rank in the estimation of your fellow-citizens which you now enjoy.

We beg leave to return you our best thanks for the honour conferred on us this day, and we congratulate you on the revival of that spirit which you have fostered and promoted in so distinguished a manner; that spirit to whose former energetic exertions Ireland owes whatever freedom of trade and constitution she now enjoys, and on which she must depend for complete emancipation.

COLONEL SHARMAN'S ANSWER.

To the Volunteer Delegates from the several corps reviewed at Dromore, on Wednesday the 19th of September 1792.

GENTLEMEN,

When the minds and manners of men are dignified by the principles and practice of virtue, they are naturally attached to the appearance of those qualities in others which they find in themselves. To this principle I owe your esteem, and upon this principle our esteem is mutual.—It would be a vain undertaking in me by any language of my pen, to do justice to my sensibility.—I will only say, that if the gratitude of a private individual, can make a return for such public honours from so numerous and respectable a body, you have it fully, and sincerely.

Last Wednesday I had the honor of being witness to a very pleasing spectacle. I saw a number of Volunteer Corps, as old as the institution itself, growing stronger, as they are growing older, in numbers and discipline. I saw a number of Volunteer Corps, not three months in existence, acquitting themselves with the discipline of veterans. And I was witness to such exertions from both the old, and the new—as defied the severity of the season, If I may be allowed to use a metaphorical expression, though the Heavens and the Earth were fighting against them, their steadiness and discipline out-generalled them.

I have read your Resolutions, and whilst I admire their wisdom, I applaud their liberality.—They will convince the world, that the Volunteer principle is at this day, what it ever has been—equal love and affection for our fellow-subjects of all persuasions without distinction.—To support the laws, and those who administer them, against all disturbers of the peace of society: by protecting the peaceable Catholic against the turbulent Protestant, and the peaceable Protestant against the turbulent Catholic, and by protecting every man against the invader of his life, his liberty, or his property.—In short; to side with the Constitution against tyranny in any shape, whether it issues from the governors, or the governed.—Whether it is arbitrary power in the few, or licentiousness in the many—which is the worst of all tyrannies.

With respect to a Reform in the Representation of the People,—it has long been my principle, and my pursuit, though hitherto without success; but I am of opinion, that those powers which have from time to time opposed it, will sooner or later concur in its expediency.

Last year when I attended the celebration of the French Revolution at Belfast, I had two motives for doing so—one was to rejoice at it—as a dissolution of one of the great tyrannies of the world.—The other was to rejoice at it—as a memento to the several Governments of the earth—to make a timely reform of abuses—for discontent among the people, may be compared to geometrical progression.—In the beginning of the climax, it has the appearance of a Pigmy—as it advances it becomes a Giant: and where the end of it will be, it is beyond the power of human calculation to determine.

From the public situations which the favor of my Fellow-citizens exalted me to, both in and out of Parliament, I have had frequent opportunities of knowing the sentiments of Gentlemen from all the Provinces of this Kingdom on the subject of Reform; as well as the sentiments entertained in England and Scotland on that subject. By comparing them together, I lay it down as a maxim, that whoever ushers into the world a Plan of Reform, ought to recollect, that there are three Kingdoms in this united empire, under a common King, and a common Constitution; the interests of each, and the union of all, requiring a common Reform for common abuses. He must calculate his plan, therefore, for their united adoption, or he must prepare himself for their united resistance. In my opinion, the surest foundation of success is moderation—because moderation is the parent of union, and union is the strength and success of nations, while division is weakness and miscarriage. It was union which raised the Volunteer Glory to what it was, and the same union will hasten its resurrection.

It is a maxim in politics, that no indictment can lie against the will of a whole people, because when they come forward as one man, they come forward with both the right and the power on their side; but when two torrents rush against each other in opposite directions, they will be productive of a third one, more powerful than either, and the consumer of both.

With every sentiment of respect and attachment,

I am, Gentlemen,
your most grateful and
faithful Servant,

WILLIAM SHARMAN.